Rehabilitation activities in Gujarat

2774. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that but for FICCI-CARE, many NGOs have backed out of rehabilitation in the quake-hit villages of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of permanent houses built since last years' major earthquake; and

(d) what are the other rehabilitation measures extended to quake-hit villages by Government, with the help of other agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) According to the Government of Gujarat, 46 NGOs who originally showed interest had withdrawn mainly due to (i) lack of experience in complex areas like private housing; (ii) scarce financial resources with them; and (iii) inability of the partnering NGO to mobilize villagers in joining the NGO for reconstruction of the village.

(c) and (d) The State Government have reported that 8,00,207 houses have been reconstructed/repaired, as on 31st January, 2002. According to available information, rehabilitation/reconstruction measures have been undertaken in various sectors which include housing, health, education, irrigation, public buildings, roads & bridges, rural & urban infrastructure, cottage & rural, urban development & urban housing and agriculture.

Horticulture Research Centre at Andipatti

2775. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Horticulture Research Centre at Andipatti in Theni district in Tamil Nadu, considering the abundant growth of Jasmine and other flowers in the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?